

Message Text

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INFO OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174324

FOLLOWING REPEAT ANTANANARIVO 1289 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW
DATED JUL 10:

QTEE: C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1289

DEPARTMENT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MILI, MA, UR , MZ, TZ

SUBJ: PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA RETURNS HOME VIA MAPUTO AND DAR ES SALAAM

REF: A) ANT 1278 (NOTAL); B) ANT 1264 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: RATSIRAKA ARRIVED BACK IN ANTANANARIVO JULY 9
AFTER VISITS TO THE USSR, ALGERIA, LIBYA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND
TANZANIA. AT PRESS INTERVIEW ON ARRIVAL HE SAID THAT SOVIET UNION WAS
PREPARED TO SELL MADAGASCAR 1,000 TRACTORS WHICH IT NEEDS, AND
THAT PURCHASE OF SOVIET ARMS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. HE ALSO IMPLIED
THAT A BETTER PREFORMANCE IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AID WAS HOPED
FOR FROM THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA WENT ON FROM LIBYA (REF A) TO SPEND A DAY
EACH IN MAPUTO AND DAR ES SALAAM.VISITS TO AFRICAN STATES MAY HAVE
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BEEEN SET UP ON SHORT NOTICE IN COURSE OF VOYAGE AS RATSIRAKA TOLD
PRESS THAT HE DHAD INFORMED HIS SOVIETS HOSTS WHILE IN MOSCOW OF
HIS WISH TO MAKE A FER STOPS ON HIS HOMEWARD JOURNEY AND SOVIETS
LET HIM USE A SPECIAL AEROFLOT PLANE FOR HIS ENTIRE TRIP.

3. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON SPECIFICS OF HIS
DISCUSSIONS IN AFRICAN CAPITALS VISITED. RATSIRAKA JOKINGLY

TOLD PRESS THAT THERE HAD REALLY NOT BEEN MUCH POINT IN VISITING ALGERIA SINCE THE TWO COUNTRIES SEE EYE TO EYE ON EVERYTHING, BUT ANNOUNCED AN ALGERIAN GIFT OF 100 TRACTORS. HE ALSO DEFENDED TANZANIA AGAINST A REPORTER'S ASSERTION THAT THE NYERERE GOVERNMENT HAD OVER RECENT YEARS BACKED AWAY FROM HARD AND PURE PROGRESSIVISM, AND STRESSED TANZANIA'S DECLARED OPPOSITION THAT THE NYERERE GOVERNMENT HAD OVER RECENT YEARS BACKED AWAY FROM HARD PURE PROGRESSIVISM, AND STRESSED TANZANIA'S DECLARED OPPOSITION TO AN INTERAFRICAN FORCE. OTHERWISE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF HIS TALKS IN TRIPOLI, MAPUTO, ALGIERS, AND DAR ES SAL. . MENTION ONLY DISCUSSIONS OF ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND PROGRESSIVE UNITY.

4. PRESIDENT SPOKE AT GREAT LENGTH ABOUT TRIP TO USSR TO REPORTERS AT AIRPORT WITHOUT MAKING ANY SENSATIONAL REVELATIONS, OR IMPLYING ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENT IN SOVIET/MALAGASY RELATIONS. REFERENCE TO DISCUSSION OF ARMS PURCHASES COULD MEAN ANYTHING BUT IS NOT ITSELF NEW SINCE MADAGASCAR ALREADY OBTAINING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. RATSIRAKA ALSO WENT TO SOME LENGTH TO ASSERT THE USSR'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, DENYING THAT SOVIETS HAD A BASE IN SOMALIA, AND REMINDING HIS AUDIENCE OF ONGOING SOVIET/AMERICAN TALKS ON DEMILITARIZATION AND DENUCLEARIZATION (SIC) OF INDIAN OCEAN. WHILE IT IS INTERESTING THAT RATSIRAKA DWELT ON THIS SUBJECT HIS REMARKS MEAN ONLY THAT SUPERPOWER PRESENCE AND MADAGASCAR'S STRATEGIC LOCATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN CONTINUE TO BE VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND, AND GIVE NO CLUE AS TO HIS FUTURE INTENTIONS.
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AS WE HAVE STATED BEFORE, HIS THEORETICAL CONCEPTION OF MALAGASY INTERESTS IN THIS FIELD COULD JUSTIFY BOTH CONTINUED REFUSAL OF SOVIET ACCESS TO MALAGASY PORTS IN THE INTEREST OF A PEACEFUL INDIAN OCEAN, OR SOME FORM OF COOPERATION, INCLUDING SHORE FACILITIES FOR A PEACE-LOVING "NATURAL ALLY" TO COUNTER U.S. AND FRENCH NAVAL PRESENCE.

5. IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD RATSIRAKA CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT GREATER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS EXPECTED FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAD HELPED GAIN INDEPENDENCE FOR MANY COUNTRIES, SUCH AS VIETNAM, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, AND MOZAMBIQUE. "IT IS THIS CONTEXT THAT WE SAY THAT THE OBJECTIVE ALLIES OF OUR LIBERATION ARE THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THEY (HELPED US) IN THE POLITICAL AND DEFENSE FIELDS AND WE HOPE THEY WILL ALSO DO SO IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD." ELSEWHERE IN INTERVIEW HE MENTIONED THAT MADAGASCAR COULD BUY UP TO 1,000 TRACTORS IN THE USSR.

6. IN GENERAL POLITICO/PHILOSOPHICAL FIELD RATSIRAKA REFERRED TO HIS PRESENT DAY CONCERN WITH THE IMPERIALIST BACKLASH TAKING PLACE IN AFRICA AND THE NEED FOR PROGRESSIVE UNITY AND COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIALIST "NATURAL ALLIES" IN ORDER TO COMBAT IT. HE STRESSED THAT SOME COUNTRIES LIKE ALGERIA AND MADAGASCAR HAD

BEEN UNABLE TO GAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE EARLIER BECAUSE SOVIET UNION
HAD BEEN UNABLE TO HELP THEM SO SOM AFTER RAVAGES OF WORLD
WAR II.

RATSIRAKA ALSO STRESSED THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES, HAVING OBTAINED
POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE, SHOULD NOW FREE THEMSELVES FROM ECONOMIC
AND CULTURAL NEOCOLONIALISM AND SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THIS
OBJECTIVE BE INCORPORATED IN CHARTER OF THE OAU. HE RETURNED TO
A CURRENT PET PEEVE THAT DECISIONS CONCERNING AFRICAN WERE NOW BEING
MADE ON ANOTHER CONTINENT, JUST AS THEY HAD BEEN MADE IN BERLIN
IN THE 19TH CENTURY. NOW IT WAS NATO TAKING THE LEAD,NATO WHOSE
ONLY OBJECTIVE IS TO STOP THE DVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM, "EVEN
THOUGH AFRICAN COUNRIES ARE NOW INDEPENDENT AND ADULT."

7, OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST MADE AT AIRPORT PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW:
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A) OAU: FOREIGN MINISTER RICHARD HAD GONE STRAIGHT FROM NORTH
AFRICA TO KHARTOUM FOR OAU MEETINGS. HE, RATSIRAKA, MIGHT
GO THE THE SUMMIT MEETING FOR HE STILL BELIEVES IN WORKING WITH OAU
WHICH HAS DONE USEFUL WORK IN THE PAST.

B) AFRICAN COMMON MARKET: CARE IS NEEDED IN THIS PROJECT SO
THAT IT WILL NOT END UP IN FAILURE LIKE THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY.

C) ZIMBABWE: ARMED STRUGGLE MUST CONTINUE EVEN DURING NEGOTIATIONS
FOR RHODESIAN RACISTS WOULD NEVER HAVE ACCEPTED THEM WITHOUT MILITARY
PRESSURE.

D) ERITREA: BOTH PROTAGONISTS ARE PROGRESSIVES AND SHOULD GET
TOGETHER AND LIVE IN PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.
BARRETT UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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